

futile in Maryland. Records have been transformed into reproductions of bundles of papers and testimony without much condensation, and briefs have gradually been expanded into arguments at length. And now the total printed matter submitted to the judges at a term of court often exceeds the reading capacity of any ordinary man,¹² and it is questioned by some whether oral argument is of any assistance to the reading judges. There has been an overturn in the conception of a judge's work.

And an incidental change is that in the work of the official reporter. Far down in the last century, it was from the court room arguments that the reporting was customarily done. The notes of arguments made down to 1851 are in the possession of the court, but none of the later notes have been found, and lacking these the work of the successive reporters cannot be followed, but until after the beginning of the present century the reporter attended all sessions of the court, sitting at a desk at the left of the room, in the corner by the bench. And a reporter's desk was included in the arrangements for the new, and present, court room in 1903, and is still there. Mr. William T. Brantly, who was State Reporter down to the year 1912, reporting 116 Maryland Reports as his last, occupied the accustomed place and followed the arguments closely—yielding at times to the temptation to give young lawyers discreet hints from an abundant understanding of the law which he possessed. Now it is realized that the printed records

12. At some recent terms of court the records and briefs submitted have equalled in combined thickness eighteen volumes of Maryland Reports.